

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3443

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UNCLAS ROME 2709

AFDROUGHT

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLY SAHEL

1. FOLLOWING TELEX SENT MAJOR DONORS, OUR COPY ADDRESSED
WILLIAMS FROM BOERMA.

A. MY REPRESENTATIVES RECENT BRUSSELS DONORS MEETING HAVE
REPORTED USEFUL DISCUSSIONS FOOD ALLOCATIONS SAHEL COUNTRIES
AND HARMONIZING SHIPPING SCHEDULES. MY RECENT VISIT TO SOME
SAHELIAN COUNTRIES CONVINCED ME DROUGHT SITUATION CONTINUES
TO BE SERIOUS NOTABLY NIGER, MALI AND I UNDERSTAND CHAD.
MY VIEW SHARED BY SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM FROM WHOM I
RECEIVED FOLLOWING CABLE TODAY, "HAVING UNTIL NOW VISITED FIVE
DROUGHT STRICKEN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED
ABOUT CONTINUING HUMAN SUFFERING CAUSED BY PROLONGED DROUGHT.
REGARD SITUATION PARTICULARLY IN NIGER, MALI AND CHAD VERY
GRAVE AND WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WILL INTENSIFY SPECIAL ATTENTION
YOU ARE GIVING TO THE THREE COUNTRIES IN THE FRAME OF EMERGENCY
OPERATION. ASSURE YOU OF MY FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY SPECIFIC
ACTIONS YOU INTEND TO UNDERTAKE IN THIS CONTEXT. WARM REGARDS".

B. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION FOR FIRM ALLOCATION OF
ADDITIONAL 55,000 TONS FOODGRAINS TO NIGER, 30,000 TONS TO
MALI AND 10,000 TONS TO MAURITANIA FROM AMOUNTS COMMITTED
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BUT NOT YET ALLOCATED AS DISCUSSED IN BRUSSELS. THIS REQUIRED

TO MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS. UNDERNOURISHMENT AFTER SUCCESSIVE YEARS DROUGHT NECESSITATES GREATER EFFORT PROVIDING PROTECTIVE FOOD WHICH INSUFFICIENTLY COMMITTED SO FAR PARTICULARLY FOR CAMP DWELLERS AND FLOATING POPULATION IN NIGER AND MALI. INTERNAL TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES ALSO CALLS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION INCLUDING FURTHER SUBSIDIES COST TRANSPORT AND REINFORCEMENT THROUGH CONVOYS.

C. ALTHOUGH YOUR ASSISTANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN GENEROUS WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER HELP TO MEET SITUATION.

2. ABOVE FIGURES ARE SAME AS THOSE USED BRUSSELS MEETING BY OSRO.VOLPE

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